

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. Claims 5-12 are withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW

Applicants thank Examiner Geoffrey Mruk for the telephonic Interview occurring December 12, 2007. Therein, Examiner Mruk and Applicants' representative, Jennifer Brooks, discussed Claim 1 with respect to the teachings of Shimada et al. (US 6,294,860). In particular, independent claim 1 was discussed regarding "zirconium element exists at the grain boundary in a larger composition ratio than lead element." The Examiner agreed that Shimada et al. fails to disclose this limitation within cited column 5, line 48 to cited column 6, line 15. In addition, the Examiner indicated that further Examination and search will be required.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shimada et al. (US 6,294,860). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome as indicated in the Interview of December 12, 2007. Applicants respectfully note that claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and that independent claim 4 recites subject matter similar to that recited in claim 1. Therefore, the rejection of claim 2-4 should also be overcome.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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